

Washington motorcycle crash facts

Did you know...?

- In Washington, there are 163,304 active motorcycle registrations and 298,202 individuals with motorcycle endorsements. Nearly 35 percent of motorcycle operators do not have a valid license endorsement.
- In 2004, 72 motorcyclists were killed in fatal accidents, and fatalities have almost doubled over the last four years.
- During the last five years, there are three primary causes or factors that can be cited in two-thirds of all motorcycle fatalities—speed, impairment, and lane errors.
- Thirty-nine percent of the riders involved in fatal accidents did not have a Washington motorcycle endorsement. National statistics show nearly one out of every four motorcycle riders in fatal crashes were operating with an invalid license.
- Motorcycle crash involvement is highest in Washington riders age 21 to 40.
- More than 60 percent of all single vehicle motorcycle crashes involved impairment of the motorcycle operator.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, per vehicle mile, motorcyclists are about 27 times as likely as passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash.
- Males are most often the victim of motorcycle fatalities. Between 1993 and 2003, 384 men and 43 women were killed in motorcycle crashes in Washington.
- County roads have the highest incidents of motorcycle fatalities, followed by state routes and city streets.



Our efforts to reduce motorcycle injuries and fatalities

In January 2006, DOL invited key members of the motorcycle community to sit down with state public safety officials to determine the primary causes of motorcycle accidents and develop recommendations to reduce them.

This Motorcycle Safety Task Force plans to:

- review the effectiveness of the current Motorcycle Rider Safety Program.
- determine the most effective outreach and education opportunities.
- study emerging issues facing motorcycle riders.
- build partnerships and communication strategies to reduce crashes and collisions.
- finalize recommendations and report to DOL director by June 30, 2006.